PICEAS – Pacific Island Cetacean and Ecosystem Assessment Survey
Weekly Report, September 8-14, 2005

Lisa T. Ballance – Cruise Leader

The majority of this week was spent at Pier 9, perfectly situated at the end of a long line of Aloha Tower's fine dining, shopping and recreating establishments in Waikiki, enjoying a 4-day respite between Legs 2 and 3 of the project. Of course, many have to work even during inport periods, repairing, re-provisioning, maintaining, but most managed to get some well-deserved R&R. We departed at 0730 on Tuesday and headed straight for Pearl Harbor where we spent hour after hour taking on fuel in preparation for our next 30 days. A number of veterans commented on the noticeable change from the fuel-light ship at the end of Leg 2, to the fuel-heavy ship of that day. My personal favorite: "The water looks closer." (RAR from the flying bridge) At 1600 we left the lush green mountains of Oahu for the deep blue of the oceanic tropics and Leg 3 began.

Although we will not reach the formal study area until Thursday morning, we began full operations (minus oceanographic station work) on Wednesday. Beaufort 5 ("Oh, the mammal observers will think those conditions are tame compared to our last leg" JPB) did not prevent our first sighting of the leg from also being a first for PICEAS. *Ziphius cavirostris* was the first beaked whale of the trip (!), courtesy James Cotton.

We welcome our new scientists, crew, and officers aboard and bid a fond farewell to our departing personnel. Jay – don't worry. Things are in good hands out here.

Marine Mammal Sighting Summary

090805	0622	N18:47.05 W158:07.56	107.6 nmi	4.6
	1828	N20:31.42 W157:54.50		
091405	0632	N20:52.74 W160:23.15	113.3 nmi	4.7
	1858	N20:25.97 W162:28.77		

CODE	SPECIES	TOT#
002	Stenella attenuata (offshore)	1
015	Steno bredanensis	2
061	Ziphius cavirostris	1
	TOTAL	4

Acoustics Squeakly Report (Shannon Rankin & Sara Heimlich)

Grumble, grumble, *#&@^#% and moan. Put the array in the water, and something is terribly wrong. I have been testing it, and will continue

testing until I find the problem … loud electrical noise on ALL channels, clipping on both the Mackie and Tascam … 1) through the headphones (post-tascam), 2) on all channels PRE-Tascam, and 3) directly from the hydrophones (pre-rack system). I cleaned all connections, but that didn't help. Brought the array back on board, and even on the deck there were loud electrical noise on ALL channels. I checked the batteries; they are okay, 12.05v on both. Cleaned up the corrosion on the connectors, still have the same problem. Checked voltage out the deck cable, and out the lead-in cable... they are getting the 12.05v all the way out there. Checked the hydrophone independently; set up two 9-v batteries, and listened independently to each hydrophone/channel. Sounded GOOD. Checked resistance of the lead-in cable, all relevant wires looked good (and I was getting 12.05v to the far end). … I am taking a wee little break to let this all settle in, and hoping that something comes to mind … maybe you saw Julie out there slicing my cable, just to make sure I was miserable here without her.

… Any ideas?

Birder Blurb (Michael Force & Sophie Webb)

Our seabird survey was rudely interrupted this week by a weekend visit to Honolulu, where we had to endure interminable rest and relaxation, cycling and swimming, and long walks on the beach. Because of all these shenanigans, this report covers only two full survey days. Nevertheless, we found a respectable 18 species this week, down slightly from previous weeks. Shearwaters are featured this week: the ubiquitous, polymorphic Wedge-tailed Shearwater and the trans-equatorial migrant, Sooty Shearwater. In the southern portion of the study area, dark morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater greatly outnumbered the light morph by approximately 10:1. Working our way northwards to Honolulu, the ratio reversed; by the time we reached Hawaii, all Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were of the expected light morph. This conforms to the expected latitudinal distribution of these two morphs in the central Pacific Ocean. Sooty Shearwater migration is now in full swing—from just a trickle last week to a veritable flood on Wednesday—when over a hundred were seen winging their way south. Noteworthy birds this week included a sub-adult male Lesser Frigatebird and a lost unidentified land bird, probably a House Finch.

Biopsy Weekly Report	**Weekly Total**	**Cruise Total**
Bryde's whales	0	1
Pilot whales	0	2
Humpback whales	0	3
Melon-headed whales	0	41
Sperm whales	0	4
False killer whales	0	18
Spotted dolphins	0	2
Spinner dolphins	0	3

Rough-toothed dolphins	0	2
Bottlenose dolphins	0	11

Photo-ID Weekly Report	**Weekly Total**	**Cruise Total**
Humpback whale fluke IDs	0	4
Bryde's whale	0	4
Melon-headed whale (# groups)	0	2
False killer whales (# groups)	0	3
Pilot whales (# groups)	0	11
Striped dolphins (# groups)	0	2
Spotted dolphins (# groups)	0	3
Spinner dolphins (#groups)	0	5
Fraser's dolphins (#groups)	0	2

Oceanographic Data Collections (Mindy Kelly and Lacey O'Neal)

DATE RANGE	DAY	CTD	XBT	Bongo	Manta
PICEAS05 - Leg 2 **9/09 to 9/14**	Friday	---		---	---
	Saturday	---		---	---
	Sunday	---		---	---
	Monday	---		---	---
	Tuesday	---		---	---
	Wednesday	0	5	0	0
	Totals	0	5	0	0

Fish Follies (Jim Cotton and Robert Pitman)

*#&@^#%$ - why can't we have a dipnet station before we get to the study area???!!!